

Scoters, flying towards the east on migration. There has been no large, defined movement since the one on April 4.

April 22.—Rain in the night, cloudy in the morning, wind south-south-east, light fog all day, with rain from three o'clock P. M. until sunset, sea quite heavy. A large flight of Scoters flying towards the east on migration.

April 23.—Pleasant, wind southwest all day. A large flight of Scoters towards the eastward on migration.

April 24.—Very pleasant and warm, wind southwest, light air, until late in the afternoon; it then changed to north. Not much worth noting.

April 25.—Wind north in the morning, and cold, ice half an inch thick; calm during the middle of the day; in the afternoon wind southwest; a pleasant day. A large flight of Scoters took place, the birds going towards the east.

April 26.—Wind north in the morning, same weather as the day before; strong southwest wind in the afternoon. Nothing especial to note.

April 27.—Wind northeast in the morning; worked around to east and south, strong breeze in the afternoon. Nothing flying.

April 28.—Wind remained south all day, quite strong breeze, sea rough, cloudy. Nothing especial to note.

April 29.—Wind southwest in the morning; changed to northwest about noon; light rain all day. Nothing especial to note.

April 30.—Wind northwest all day, very pleasant. Only a few birds moving, nothing to note.

May 4.—While passing from Nantucket Island to Wood's Holl, Mass., I saw a good many White-wing, and a few Surf, Scoters.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) at Nantucket Island, Massachusetts.—While driving in the western portion of this island on May 1, 1892, my attention was attracted while crossing the beach at the south head of Hammuck Pond to quite a number of small birds (about forty estimated) which, when flying on the waves, resembled the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), and which were hovering just above the water and alighting on it amid the breakers which were rolling in on the beach. I at once recognized that that most graceful of the smaller water birds, the Red Phalarope, or Whale Bird as it is sometimes called, was before me. Never having taken them before, I filled my pocket with cartridges and, hastily jumping from my wagon (leaving my horse, who is accustomed to such proceedings, to take care of himself on the crest of the beach), I ran to the edge of the water and commenced firing; nor was my ardor dampened, although my legs and feet were, after the waves had twice washed over my rubber boots. There was a strong south by west wind blowing at the time, as it had been for a day or so previous, which drifted my dead birds on the shore. The weather for the past week, as it was that day, had been quite cool. The

surf was tumbling in on the beach, within fifteen or twenty yards of which the birds were distributed for quite a distance. They passed to and fro on wing, alighting on any temporarily smooth spot amid the rollers, and immediately commenced feeding. When a curling wave towered above and threatened to engulf them, they rose on wing and, just clearing the crest of the wave, again alighted behind it, to repeat the operation when the occasion required. While on the water all their movements were exceedingly agile and graceful, as they swam with astonishing rapidity, picking up at short intervals something edible from apparently just below the surface, the bill being immersed only about half its length; what it was, I failed to discover. Frequently they would spin around in quest of it, as on a pivot. The head and neck are carried erect to the fullest extent. I did not notice one with the neck arched or curved while swimming; neither did I see one of them attempt to dive during my observations which lasted over an hour. They appeared remarkably active, and all the time were busily engaged in feeding. I saw none resting quietly on the water, neither did I hear them utter any sound. They are said, however, to make a peeping note. Their flight and general appearance when flying reminded me strongly of the Sanderling. Occasionally four or five would collect together; but I failed to secure more than one at a single shot, owing to the rapidity of their movements as also to the waves. Although the birds remained the whole time within a few yards of the beach, during which time I was constantly firing at them, they seemed quite tame and gentle. They nevertheless were difficult to shoot as they bobbed about like a cork, now up, now down, and sometimes for an instant only in front of a wave, and then lost to view behind it, rising and falling with the waves several feet at a time. Of the fifteen I shot down I saved twelve, one of which was a Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), a female in the adult spring plumage, a most beautiful bird, and the first I have taken in this plumage. I could easily have captured more of the Red Phalaropes, but considered I had a sufficiently good series, the birds being in various stages of plumage, except the fully adult. One of the crew of the life-saving station at this end of the island (west), and within a mile and a half of the spot where I shot them, informed me the next day that, on the day previous to the one on which I shot them, he should think he had seen nearly two hundred of them. On May 10 they had mostly departed. There were several hundreds in the flocks which were resting on the water and flying about. One of my friends, who has made the passage several springs from New York to South Carolina and return, and who knows the bird, informs me that in the years 1886, 1887, and 1889, he saw them in numbers beyond estimate, about April 20, fifty to one hundred miles north of Cape Hatteras, N. C., and perhaps fifty miles from land.

I am of the opinion that this bird is more abundant along the coast than would be inferred from the few which are taken, but I account for so few, comparatively, being noted by the fact that as a usual thing they do not linger near the shore, unless driven in by severe weather.

As far as I am aware, this spring, the first of these birds observed were

those taken by me on May 1. They were numerous in the vicinity of Tuckernuck and Muskeget Islands from May 19 to 22 inclusive, about all having departed at the latter date. I, however, saw eight or ten scattering birds on May 26, on which date I shot two *P. lobatus*, and one *C. fulicarius*. It would appear that the northeast rain storm of May 19, 20 and 21 must have driven in a fresh lot of these birds on this coast, for at that time and a few days later thousands were noted, and some two hundred and fifty captured, from Monomoy to Provincetown, Cape Cod, a large proportion of which were in an advanced stage of plumage and many in the fully adult dress, while on May 1 I did not see one in full spring plumage, most of them being in the gray and white stage. I am therefore of the opinion that those birds taken and noted off Cape Cod were a different lot. Among them were a few scattering *P. lobatus*. It is very unusual for the Red Phalarope to appear in such abundance on this coast. About six years ago, one day during the latter part of October, Phalaropes (species unknown) were noted passing continuously by the south side of Nantucket and Tuckernuck Islands, headed south. They flew from morning until late in the afternoon in flocks of varying size, keeping near the water.

The adult female has a white patch on each side of the head, surrounding the eye, and extending backward until they meet in a narrow line at the nape, the crown being black from the base of the bill to the nape. Adult males usually have a much smaller loreal space of white, and the crown from the base of the bill to the nape is sooty black streaked with yellowish brown, the same as on the back. The entire under parts of the adults (both sexes) from the bill to the end of the tail are deep red. Mr. M. Abbott Frazar, of Boston, first called my attention to the difference between the top of the head of males and females, which seems sufficiently constant in the large number of specimens I have viewed (about one hundred and fifty) to identify the sexes. It would also appear that the female has the higher plumage of the two, as well as being a little larger than the male. When in the gray and white immature plumage I see no way of recognizing the sexes by their general appearance.

As I am not aware that many of these birds have been heretofore taken in this vicinity at this season I thought it might be desirable if I gave an individual description of those I secured. For convenience I designate them by number.

No. 1.—A young male. The upper parts mostly gray, with a few reddish feathers on the back and scapulars showing the maturer plumage. Under parts white. A band of white about three eighths of an inch wide on greater wing coverts. Top of head white with a few blackish brown feathers interspersed. Nape gray. Bill nearly black, with a tinge of deep orange yellow extending from the nostrils to the base of the upper mandible; also a tinge of the same on the lower mandible at its base.

No. 2.—This bird, a male, was of nearly the same plumage as the one above described.

No. 3.—Male. Generally the same as those above, but rather more mature.

The feathers on the back were brownish black, and there was not as much white on top of the head. The bill had a little more of the deep orange yellow at its base, and of a little deeper shade; it was also extended a little beyond the nostrils on its sides. There were also some red feathers intermingled on the neck and throat, as also a few on the sides of the breast, as well as on the lower tail-coverts. There was an oblong black spot around the eyes.

No. 4.—Female. Very similar to No. 3, with scattering reddish feathers, interspersed with white ones, extending from the throat throughout the entire lower parts, the orange yellow showing a little beyond the nostrils, beginning at the base of the upper mandible and extending somewhat farther on towards the end of the lower mandible. There were a good many brownish and black feathers on the back and scapulars, edged with white on the scapulars. Under tail-coverts reddish. A blackish brown oblong mark on spot below and in front of the eyes.

No. 5.—Male. A bird in similar plumage to No. 1.

No. 6.—Female. This bird had more red than white on its entire lower parts from the throat down. The deep orange yellow extended half the length of the upper mandible from the base forward, and to three quarters of the length on the lower. Neck very red. Throat grayish, with a few reddish feathers interspersed. Top of head almost black, with an occasional white feather. Nape blackish, with considerable red intermixed. The feathers of the back and scapulars, reddish and black. Under tail-coverts from vent red with an occasional white feather. Sides of the head black and white, the former predominating. Legs light grayish slate.

No. 7.—Male. Like No. 1, except the longest feathers of scapulars which were black, edged with dull red.

No. 8.—Female. The top of the head of this bird was all black with one white feather. Throat black and white intermixed. Neck deep dark red. Lower parts red and white intermixed. The deep orange yellow extending half the length of the upper mandible, and almost to the end of the lower, the end of the bill being black. The back and scapulars reddish and black. A number of reddish feathers on the upper tail-coverts. Nape reddish. A white band over the eyes an eighth to a quarter of an inch wide, extending to back of head.

No. 9.—Female. Top of head black and white. Entire back, including scapulars, composed of grayish and reddish and black feathers. On the lower parts, including neck, red and white feathers intermixed. Throat black and white intermixed. The deep orange yellow on the upper mandible extended seven eighths of its length on the sides, with the black at the end extending towards the nostrils so as to make a dividing line about half its length, the under mandible having the orange yellow nearly to the end which was black. There were some red feathers on the upper tail-coverts.

No. 10.—Female. This bird was in about the same plumage as No. 9, but with more red on the breast, and more of the white feathers on the lower parts.

No. 11.—Female. This bird had the top of its head black, with a few white feathers interspersed. The feathers of back and scapulars reddish and black, with an occasional gray one. On the throat and entire lower parts red and white feathers intermixed. Under tail-coverts pure red. The lower mandible orange yellow to within an eighth of an inch of the end which was black. The upper mandible orange yellow to within an eighth of an inch of the end which was black, with a dividing line of black changing to light brown as it neared the nostrils. On the breast red and white feathers intermixed, the former predominating. Nails black. In all the specimens taken the white bar on the greater wing-coverts and the color of the legs and feet were constant.

No. 12.—This bird, a female, was the Northern Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) in apparently full adult plumage. The top of the head was black. Bill black. Throat white. A small spot of white on under eyelids. A deep chestnut red color separated by a blackish band from the white of the breast which extended over the entire lower parts to end of tail. A bar of white on the great wing-coverts one quarter of an inch wide. Entire back black, striped with deep chestnut red feathers some of which had a white edging at their ends, as did also the black feathers of the scapulars. The upper tail-coverts had black and white spots alternating, there being several on each feather. Feet of a dark slate-color outside and light lead-color on the inside, the nails black.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, Nantucket, Mass.

*Crymophilus fulvicarius* in Provincetown Harbor.—May 21 to 23, 1892, I spent at Provincetown, Massachusetts, with Mr. Outram Bangs of Boston. The number of Phalaropes that we observed was so unusual as to seem worthy of record.

May 21.—A single *Crymophilus* found on the edge of a large pond near the town. The bird appeared to be unhurt, but moved about slowly and awkwardly on shore. The weather was rainy and foggy with a steady, strong wind from the east. Fishermen who went out to the weirs north of the town reported 'bank birds' (Phalaropes) very abundant, large numbers of them even alighting on the beach. They said that the birds had been unusually abundant a few miles out at sea for some weeks, but these were the first seen near shore.

May 22.—This morning the wind moderated, but a fog set in, bringing with it numbers of Phalaropes. At about 8 A. M. word was brought that the harbor was full of 'sea geese' (a name applied indiscriminately to both species of Phalarope). The fog was not very dense and the birds could be seen from shore, flying in large flocks close to the water. They moved mostly toward the northwest, very few being seen to fly in any other direction. It was noticeable that the flocks did not like to cross the long nets or 'leaders' stretching from the weirs toward shore directly across the usual line of flight. Although these nets rose only three or four feet above the water, the birds almost invariably turned their flight and followed them for some distance before rising to pass over. At a little after nine the fog